

**MAR 18 2010**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

AT 8:30  
WILLIAM T. WALSH  
CLERK

**PHYLLIS MOLNAR, et al.,**

**Plaintiffs,**

**v.**

**MERCK & CO., INC.,**

**Defendant.**

**Civil Action No.: 08-8 (GEB)**

**PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

**MARGARET GOZDZIAK,**

**Plaintiff**

**v.**

**MERCK & CO., INC.,**

**Defendant.**

**Civil Action No.: 09-5630 (FLW)**

**PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

**DOLORES DUKE, et al.,**

**Plaintiffs,**

**v.**

**MERCK & CO., INC.,**

**Defendant.**

**Civil Action No.: 09-5693 (AET)**

**PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

**DOLORES KUCZAJDA, et al.,**

**Plaintiffs,**

**v.**

**MERCK & CO., INC.,**

**Defendant.**

**Civil Action No.: 10-679 (MLC)**

**PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

These matters having come before the Court during an initial conference, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16; and the Court having considered the positions of the parties; and good cause having been shown;

IT IS on this 9th day of March, 2010,

**ORDERED THAT:**

1. As discussed during the initial conference held in the above-captioned matters, these cases are hereby consolidated for discovery purposes before the Honorable Lois H. Goodman, U.S.M.J.

2. In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1), each party will submit a letter, no later than March 9, 2010, to the undersigned certifying that initial disclosure has been made. This material will NOT be filed with the Clerk of the Court.

3. Any motion to join new parties, whether by amended or third-party complaint, must be filed no later than January 14, 2011 and made returnable on February 7, 2011.

4. Any motion to amend the pleadings must be filed no later than January 14, 2011 and made returnable on February 7, 2011.

5. A telephone conference call will take place on June 3, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. before the Honorable Lois H. Goodman, U.S.M.J. Plaintiff's counsel is to set up the call.

6. The parties will have until June 30, 2011, to conclude all fact discovery in this matter. No discovery will issue beyond that date, except upon motion and for good cause shown.

7. Counsel will confer in an attempt to resolve any discovery or case management disputes before making such dispute the subject of a motion. No discovery motion will be entertained absent counsel's full compliance with L. Civ. R. 37.1(a)(1); *see also* L. Civ. R. 16.1(f).

8. Any discovery or case management disputes will be brought to the attention of the United States Magistrate Judge no later than October 30, 2011. L. Civ. R. 37.1(a)(1); *see also* Loc. Civ. R. 16.1(f).

9. In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 30, Plaintiff shall be limited to ten depositions, except upon leave of Court. In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 33, Plaintiff shall be limited to twenty-five interrogatories, (including all subparts), except upon leave of Court.

10. Discovery requests propounded by Plaintiff's counsel on Merck will be uniform and Plaintiff's counsel is not permitted to multiply the numerical limits applicable to discovery under the Federal rules of Civil Procedure and Local Rules by the number of plaintiffs he represents.

11. To allow Plaintiff's counsel sufficient time to respond to discovery in each of his four cases, the dates in paragraphs (a) and (b) will be staggered in each case in 30-day intervals:

- a. Plaintiff's counsel shall produce to Merck a completed Fosamax MDL Plaintiff Profile Form and all authorizations for the release of records referred to therein by May 1, 2010; and

- b. Merck shall serve any additional interrogatories and requests for the production of documents by May 30, 2010.
12. Plaintiff shall serve interrogatories and document requests by August 30, 2010.
13. Plaintiff shall produce their responses and objections to Merck's interrogatories and requests for the production of documents thirty (30) days after service. Merck shall produce its responses and objections to interrogatories and document requests within sixty (60) days after service.
14. Plaintiff(s) shall serve copies of its expert reports no later than August 15, 2011.
15. Defendant(s) shall serve copies of its expert reports no later than September 30, 2011.
16. No expert shall testify at the time of trial as to any opinions, nor base those opinions on facts, not substantially disclosed in any report as described in the preceding paragraphs.
17. Expert depositions, if any, shall be conducted no later than November 30, 2011.
18. A settlement conference will be set at the time of the aforementioned conference call. No later than seven days prior to the settlement conference, each party is to deliver to the Court a confidential letter, NOT to exceed 5 pages in total, summarizing the relevant facts, the respective legal positions, status of the case, and the client's position of settlement. Trial counsel and clients with full settlement authority are to be present IN PERSON at the conference. Any failure in this regard shall result in the imposition of sanctions.
19. Any dispositive motions must be filed by December 23, 2011, and made returnable on January 16, 2012.
20. A final pretrial conference will be held before the Honorable Lois H. Goodman, U.S.M.J., on a date to be set later by the Court.
21. At the pretrial conference counsel should be prepared to discuss settlement of the case. Clients must be available by telephone.
22. The attorneys for all parties are further directed to meet together by agreement, initiated by counsel for the plaintiff no later than ten (10) days before the date of the pretrial conference to:
  - a. discuss settlement;
  - b. stipulate to as many facts and issues as possible;
  - c. prepare a Final Pretrial Order in the form and content as required by the Court. Plaintiff's counsel will prepare the Final Pretrial Order and will submit it to all other counsel for approval and execution. The original and one copy of the executed Final Pretrial Order will be delivered to the pretrial conference. All counsel are responsible for the timely submission of the Final Pretrial Stipulation and Order;
  - d. examine all exhibits and documents proposed to be used at trial;

- e. complete all other matters which may expedite both the pretrial and trial of the case;
- f. submit an original and one copy of the proposed Final Pretrial Order at least (5) days in advance of the conference; and
- g. affix appropriate markers to the exhibits at or prior to the time they are shown to opposing counsel at the meeting of counsel referred to above; each marker will bear the number of the exhibit to which it is affixed.

23. Any proposed confidentiality order agreed to by the parties must be accompanied by a separate statement showing specific good cause for the entry of the order and must comply with L. Civ. R. 5.3.

24. The Court may, from time to time, schedule conferences as may be required, either on its own motion or at the request of the parties.

25. Since all dates set forth herein are established with the assistance and knowledge of the parties, there will be no extensions except for good cause shown and by leave of Court, even with consent of all parties.

26. Failure to appear at subsequent conferences, or to comply with any of the terms of this Order, may result in sanctions.

27. The parties are advised that the Court has various audio/visual and evidence presentation equipment available for use at trial at no cost to the parties. This equipment includes an evidence presentation system, which consists of a document camera and a projector. The projector may be used to display images which originate from a variety of sources, including television, VCR and personal computer. The document camera may be used to display documents, photographs, charts, transparencies and small objects. For further information, please contact the Courtroom Deputy Ivannya Jimenez.

28. An original copy of any letter memoranda that is faxed or emailed to Chambers should NOT be mailed to Chambers, unless specifically advised otherwise.

29. Counsel **MUST NOT** file correspondence, including discovery or status letters, via CM/ECF unless instructed by the Court. Chambers will not receive notice of any such postings. If Counsel wish to have correspondence entered onto the Court docket, they may include this request in the correspondence to the Honorable Lois H. Goodman, U.S.M.J.

30. Counsel are invited to use the George H. Barlow Attorney Conference Room located on the third floor of the Courthouse Annex. The room is equipped with telephones, laptop and printer access, copier, and facsimile.

  
TONIANNE J. BONGIOVANNI,  
United States Magistrate Judge